

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 AF-10 EA-07 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EB-08
COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 /086 W
-----240709Z 099979 /10

R 240545Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2345
INFO AMEMBASSXOIMLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBAFCY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 2778

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AF, UR
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT DAOUD'S VISIT TO MOSCOW

REF: A) MOSCOW 5177 B) KABUL 2656 C) MOSCOW 5477

1. AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTER WAHEED ABDULLAH APRIL 20 GAVE
ME A FEW MORE DETAILS OF PRESIDENT DAOUD'S APRIL 12-15
VISIT TO MOSCOW.

2. ABDULLAH SAID THAT THE ECONOMIC AGREEMENT WHICH WAS
SIGNED WAS A STANDAND AGREEMENT WHICH THE SOVIETS MAKE WITH

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND WOULD IN DUE COURSE BE PUBLISHED.
THE ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS DEALT LARGELY, HE SAID, WITH THE
USES TO BE MADE OF THE OUTSTANDING \$700 MILLION OF SOVIET
CREDITS TO AFGHANISTAN. THE SOVIETS HAD AGREED TO ASSIST
WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 500,000-TON-PER-YEAR OIL
REFINERY IN NORTHERN AFGHANISTAN AND WITH THE EXPOI-
TATION OF THE COPPER DEPOSITS NEAR KABUL. ABDULLAH
SAID THAT THERE IS AS YET NO FIRM ESTIMATE OF AFGHAN
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OIL RESERVES, BUT THE BEST GUESS WAS 60-70 MILLION
TONS WHICH HE SAID WAS ENOUGH FOR TWENTY YEARS'
DOMESTIC USE. HE WAS AWARE OF THE RECENT CIA REPORT
STATING THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD SOON BECOME A NET
IMPORTER OF OIL AND SPECULATED THAT THIS WAS AMONG
THE REASONS THE SOVIETS ARE WILLING TO ASSIST AFGHAN
OIL DEVELOPMENT. COMMENT: THE AFGHAN-SOVIET TWELVE-

YEAR, RENEWABLE ECONOMIC AGREEMENT WAS PUBLISHED IN KABUL APRIL 21. IT CALLS FOR GENERAL COOPERATION ON THE BASIS OF SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS WHICH WILL BE CONCLUDED FOR EACH PROJECT. COPY POUCH NEA.

END COMMENT

3. ON POLITICAL MATTERS, ABDULLAH SAID HE FOUND THE SOVIETS PREOCCUPIED WITH TWO AREAS OF THE WORLD: SOUTHERN AFRICA AND SOUTH ASIA. ON THE FORMER, PODGORNY SEEMED PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS OF HIS RECENT TRIP. ON THE LATTER, NOT SURPRISINGLY A SUBJECT FOR AN AFGHAN-SOVIET GET-TOGETHER, ABDULLAH SAID THE SOVIETS SEEMED WORRIED ABOUT THE SWING TO THE RIGHT, AS ABDULLAH TERMED IT, IN INDIA AND PAKISTAN. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, ABDULLAH SAID THAT THE SOVIETS ARE ALSO NOT CONTENT WITH INTERNAL EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN, ADDING THAT THEY ARE IN GENERAL UNHAPPY WITH THE SUCCESS OF AMERICAN POLICY IN SUPPORTING NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS. BUT HE ALSO ADDED THAT THE SOVIETS TREATED DAOUD WITH GREAT RESPECT AND WERE CAREFUL TO BE SENSITIVE TO HIS NATIONALIST PRIDE.

4. REGARDING THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP, ABDULLAH SAID HE WAS STRUCK WITH THE CLEAR DECLINE IN BREZHNEV'S HEALTH OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS. HE ALSO REMARKED THAT GROMYKO, MORE THAN EVER BEFORE IN AFGHAN-SOVIET DISCUSSIONS, TOOK THE LEAD AT SEVERAL POINTS IN THE TALKS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KABUL02778
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770142-1157
Format: TEL
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770425/aaaaavfo.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0ce516a0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MOSCOW 5177, 77 KABUL 2656, 77 MOSCOW 5477
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2711767
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT DAOUD'S VISIT TO MOSCOW
TAGS: PFOR, AF, UR, (DAOUD, MOHAMMAD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0ce516a0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009